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Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 AGRE-00 IGA-02 L-03 CIAE-00
COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06
TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01
/062 W
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R 081409Z NOV 77
FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU
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FOR AID/AAA/TA - DR LONG; ARA/CAR - R. SURBER

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID, BF
SUBJ: BAHAMAS AGRICULTURAL GOALS

1. EMBASSY AID OFFICER AND CO-MANAGER BARTAD, DR. FRANK MADDEN, WAS INVITED BY GCOB TO PARTICIPATE IN TWO-DAY MEETINGS HELD AT MINEXTAFF ON NOVEMBER 3 AND 4 TO DISCUSS BAHAMAS AGRICULTURAL GOALS. MEETING WAS OUTGROWTH OF A CABINET SESSION HELD NOV. 1 AND WAS CHAIRED BY MINEXTAFF ADDERLEY AND ATTENDED BY MIN COAKLEY OF EDUCATION AND MIN SMITH OF AGRICULTURE IN ADDITION TO MADDEN AND OTHER AGRICULTURE MINISTRY OFFICIALS.

2. IN ADDITION TO DISCUSSING THE FUTURE OF AGRICULTURE IN THE BAHAMAS, I.E., HOW TO ACHIEVE THE ALREADY MUCH PUBLICIZED BAHAMAS GOAL OF ACHIEVING AGRICULTURAL SELF-SUFFICIENCY BY 1980 THE GROUP ALSO DISCUSSED: A) THE BARTAD PROJECT, ITS ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND THE DESIRABILITY OF ITS CONTINUANCE WITH GCOB FUNDING; B) THE BARTAD SPONSORED AGRICULTURAL CREDIT PROGRAM AND, C) THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NORTH ANDROS AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVE.
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EM ACCORDING TO DR. MADDEN THOSE PRESENT, WITH FEW EXCEPTIONS, HAD NO CONCEPT OF WHAT BARTAD WAS, HAD DONE AND COULD DO. THANKS TO HIS AND HIS BAHAMIAN COUNTERPART'S PRESENTATION, HOWEVER, THEY WERE MADE TO UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PROJECT'S WORK TO DATE AND ITS POTENTIAL IMPORTANCE FOR THE FUTURE. THE GROUP AT THE END OF THE

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SESSION DRAFTED A PAPER TO THE FULL CABINET REQUESTING APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF THE PROAG AGREEMENT ALLOWING FOR THE EXPENDITURE OF APPROXIMATELY DOLS 500,000 APPROPRIATED BUT UNSPENT BARTAD FUNDS FOR A PERIOD OF ONE YEAR BEYOND THE JANUARY 19, 1978 CUTOFF. THE PAPER ALSO RECOMMENDED THE APPROVAL OF AN ADDITIONAL DOLS 400,000 GCOB ALLOCATION TO THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE BUDGET FOR 1978 SO THAT BARTAD COULD CONTINUE OPERATIONS AT ITS CURRENT LEVEL.

4. BIANNUAL "HIGH LEVEL MEETINGS" COMPOSED OF AID, EMBASSY AND GCOB OFFICIALS WILL BE HELD NOV. 10 IN NASSAU. AT THAT MEETING WE EXPECT GCOB TO AGAIN GO THROUGH THE MOTION OF REQUESTING AN EXTENTION OF U.S. FUNDING OF BARTAD. AT SAME TIME WE FEEL CERTAIN THAT THEY ARE PREPARED FOR ANOTHER NEGATIVE RESPONSE AND THAT THEY WILL SETTLE FOR THE PROAG AMENDMENT ALLOWING A ONE YEAR EXTENSION OF THE ALLOCATED BUT UNSPENT FUNDS.

5. COMMENT: EMBASSY CONCURS WITH MIN ADDERLEY WHO ACCORDING TO DR. MADDEN STATED AT BEGINNING OF LAST WEEK'S MEETING THAT "IT SHOULD HAVE TAKEN PLACE THREE YEARS AGO" AND THAT "IT IS TIME THAT GCOB STOPPED GIVING LIP SERVICE TO AGRICULTURE AND STARTED DOING SOMETHING ABOUT IT." FACT THAT MEETING WAS HELD AND THAT THOSE IN ATTENDANCE RECOGNIZED BARTAD'S CONTRIBUTION
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AND DECIDED TO CONTINUE FUNDING IT ARE ENCOURAGING STEPS IN RIGHT DIRECTION. WE HOPE THERE WILL BE MORE OF THEM.
SCHWARTZ

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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From: NASSAU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Release Event: n/a
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Status: NATIVE
Subject: BAHAMAS AGRICULTURAL GOALS
TAGS: EAID, EAGR, BF
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/043c461f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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